

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a filter catalyst, the process comprising:

preparing a coating slurry in which an inorganic oxide powder is dispersed, and coating the coating slurry onto a catalyst-support substrate composed of a porous material having a plurality of cells extending in an axial direction;

removing excess coating slurry from the coated catalyst-support substrate with the coating slurry coated; substrate; and

drying-calcining the coating slurry;

wherein the removing of the excess coating slurry is carried out by performing the following steps repeatedly:

holding one of axial opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate and an other of the axial opposite ends thereof in such a state that a pressure difference is given therebetween; and

holding the one of the axial opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate and the other of the axial opposite ends thereof in an identical pressure state, wherein state, each of the axial opposite ends defines defining at least two openings, the at least two openings being alternately sealed with a sealing material.

wherein a porosity of the filter catalyst with pore diameters between 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  is 12.53% to 13.29% and the porosity of the filter catalyst with pore diameters between 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 70  $\mu\text{m}$  is 27.11% to 28.03%.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the pressure difference given between both the axial opposite ends of said catalyst-support substrate is 1

KPa or more in the step of holding both the axial opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate in such a state that a pressure difference is given therebetween.

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said inorganic oxide powder dispersed in said coating slurry is such that a 70% particle-diameter value (D70) of a particle-diameter cumulative distribution is 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a filter catalyst, the process comprising:

preparing a coating slurry in which an inorganic oxide powder is dispersed, and coating the coating slurry onto a catalyst-support substrate composed of a porous material having a plurality of cells extending in an axial direction;

removing excess coating slurry from the coated catalyst-support substrate with  
~~the coating slurry coated; and substrate; and~~

drying-calcining the coating slurry;  
wherein the removing of the excess coating slurry is carried out by performing the following steps repeatedly:

holding one of axial opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate to which a first pressure is given and an other of the axial opposite ends thereof to which a higher pressure than the first pressure is given such that a pressure difference is given therebetween;

holding the one of the axial opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate and the other axial opposite ends thereof in an identical pressure state; and

holding the one of the axial opposite ends of the catalyst-support substrate to which a second pressure is given and the other axial opposite end thereof to which a lower pressure than the second pressure is given such that a pressure difference is given ~~therebetween~~therebetween,

wherein a porosity of the filter catalyst with pore diameters between 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  is 12.53% to 13.29% and the porosity of the filter catalyst with pore diameters between 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 70  $\mu\text{m}$  is 27.11% to 28.03%.